

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge Underway at Grafenwoehr

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – The first of three Camp A.R.M.Y Challenge military youth camps began June 18 at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr. More than 30 children of deployed Army and Air Force service members are enjoying traditional summer camp activities such as swimming, hiking and creative arts projects while also learning team-building skills and strategies to cope with the stresses associated with deployments.

Grafenwoehr Garrison Commander Col. Brian Boyle said his organization is “absolutely thrilled that we were selected to host the children of our deployed service members. In our view, there is never enough that we can do to help the families cope with the stresses of a loved one’s deployment.”

Boyle lauded IMA-EURO for “doing a fantastic job of supporting these families through programs like Camp Army Challenge, as well as our other MWR programs and activities. Grafenwoehr has a full array of outdoor activities that can support back to nature type events.”

The commander noted that his garrison in Bavaria features a full array of facilities for camping, hiking, water sports and rappelling. “By placing the campers in unfamiliar camping surroundings, they learn to depend on each other for success. This dependence leads to a sharing of experiences and coping mechanisms that the students use to learn how to deal with the deployment of their parent,” said Boyle.

USAG Grafenwoehr Command Sgt. Major John Burns credits IMA-EURO Region Director Russell Hall, his MWR staff and numerous volunteers with, “doing an outstanding job in supporting programs like this which really help children of deployed Soldiers cope with stressors and allows these young adults to meet new friends.”

Seventeen camp counselors are leading children in a wide range of skill and morale boosting activities at this week’s camp.

Three A.R.M.Y (Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth) Challenge camps will be conducted this summer for middle and high school youth. A total of 160 middle school students have signed up for the next two IMA-EURO Morale Welfare and Recreation camps at Camp Darby, Italy, in July.